

1 ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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3 An object counting and dispensing system includes a vibration
4 system, a mounting assembly for coupling a cassette to the
5 vibration system, a chute configured to receive discrete objects
6 from the cassette, and an object sensing system which senses and
7 counts objects fed from the cassette. Each cassette includes a
8 base and a stepped side wall which together define a central open
9 reservoir portion and a peripheral covered tray portion.

10 Cassettes are mounted to the mounting assembly in manner which
11 permits rapid and secure coupling and decoupling. A preferred
12 coupling and decoupling system includes an electromagnet. Each
13 cassette is able to feed and guide a range of sizes and shapes of
14 tablets toward the exit. Only a few standard sizes of cassettes
15 are needed to accommodate all discrete objects, e.g., tablets and
16 capsules, for which the counter is adapted. A universal hopper
17 can be attached to the mounting assembly.